

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Contacts are created and stored with corresponding contact information in such a way that they can be accessed and utilized by applications from a single contact store. The contact store contains a complete contact definition for each contact so that each of the applications can obtain the appropriate contact information and in the appropriate format from the contact store that is required by the applications. Centralizing the storage of the contact information allows the contact store to incorporate and propagate the changes that are made by the applications to the contact information. Interfaces can also be provided to initiate communications using the contact information and for controlling what contact information will be made accessible to the applications.

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